

For Immediate Release
Daughtrey December 16, 2009
201-222-2828

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Washington, D.C. Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in supporting emergency funding for community colleges across the nation by co-sponsoring the Community College Emergency Stabilization Fund Act.

“Our nation’s current economic crisis has placed our community colleges in a dire situation,” said Congressman Sires. “While enrollment at community colleges has been increasing, state budgets for education funding are being slashed. Community colleges enroll nearly 50% of undergraduates in our country and it is imperative that we ensure access to these fine institutions.”

The Community College Emergency Stabilization Fund Act will provide competitive grants to assist community colleges in maintaining or hiring additional faculty and staff. When awarding these grants, the Secretary of Education will take into account several factors. These include looking at the most recent monthly unemployment rate of the local area and the increased enrollment relative to the preceding academic year.

“Community colleges provide quality education at an affordable price and are a vital component of our nation,” said Sires. “Educating our future workforce ensures that our nation emerges strongly and swiftly out of the current state of the economy. I am a proud supporter of this Act which will strengthen the community college system during a time that it is most in need.” ###